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# Africans Blame Drugs on West

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NAIROBI, Feb. 17.—Depraved Western youths are corrupting Africans by introducing them to marijuana and hashish. In some places, the CIA may be attempting to embarrass left-wing African officials by planting large quantities of drugs on them.

That, at least, is the picture some African politicians, clergymen and citizens are trying to draw as the drug issue begins to become a fashionable subject in parts of Africa, which usually lags a few years in following Western trends.

Here in Kenya, Vice President Daniel Arap Moi lashed out a few weeks ago against "some itinerant tourists, commonly known as hippies," who "encouraged and stimulated" Kenyan youths to smoke marijuana, which is known locally as bhang.

Moi, who has also gathered publicity in the local media recently by condemning such signs of "Western decadence" as miniskirts, suggested that volunteer teachers like those sent to Kenya by the Peace Corps have also helped spread the

smoking of marijuana here.

His remarks have sparked a lively debate. African women's groups and Presbyterian ministers have rushed to agree with Moi and to issue warnings that drug taking would destroy the country unless something was done about the foreigners.

A few voices of dissent have been raised, pointing out that many groups in Africa have had a long and somewhat honorable tradition of smoking cannabis plants, which have grown wild across the continent for decades if not centuries.

I went the other day to my bank in Nyeri, H. C. Allen wrote the other day to the Daily Nation newspaper, "and standing dramatically in the middle of the floor, was a man of middle age smoking quite the most enormous reefer I am ever likely to see. The smoke filled the bank," Allen added, but people "seemed more amused than concerned."

The Nation, Nairobi's biggest English language paper, also recently carried an item about a 69-year-old man who told a judge he had started smoking bhang when he was a boy. He was jailed

for six months for selling marijuana to his friends.

And this week in Uganda, a group of Baganda tribesmen asked President Idi Amin to allow them to start growing bhang again. It was outlawed only when the English colonial settlers came to Uganda, they reminded Amin.

They claimed that the drug helped heal pneumonia and whooping cough, helped people regain appetite and is in any case "one of the strongest and finest types of tobacco." Amin changed the subject to economic development.

Uganda's northern neighbor, the Sudan, is another country where the smoking of hashish is not unknown. But last month, when a high ranking Sudanese general and government official, Maj. Gen. Ahmed Abdel Halim was arrested in Beirut with \$50,000 worth of hashish in his luggage, Sudanese President Jaafar Nimeri immediately labeled the arrest as a frameup arranged by "imperialist circles."

The general was returning to Khartoum from an official visit to China. While assailing the "obvious" plant-

ing, Nimeri also announced that Halim had asked to be allowed to resign "to foil chances of imperialism" to embarrass the self-styled revolutionary government of the Sudan.

Thus far, few African countries have instituted the kind of Draconian penalties Middle East countries are using to discourage foreigners from using drugs. But magistrates here are beginning to warn of stiffer penalties as the local media begin to take an interest in drug news:

One exception to the low-key approach is Malawi, where an Australian youth was recently sentenced to five years in jail for possession of hashish.

South Africa is the only country with an intensive antidrug campaign on the continent. The police there use many American-developed techniques such as sending helicopters out to look for fields of marijuana, training police dogs to sniff it out, and routinely employing stiff penalties. The government is known to have seriously considered for some time imposing the death penalty for those convicted of selling drugs.